

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

As stated above, Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-4 and 6-9, drawn to a device comprising of at least two superimposed metal strips for protection of an electrode, and respectfully traverse the requirement for restriction for the following reasons:

It is believed that any search for the invention embodied in Group I would necessarily include a search of the inventions embodied in Group II and Group III. Thus, the simultaneous search for all of the Groups is believed not to constitute an unreasonable search for the Patent Examiner.

In addition, it is believed that the objectives of streamlined examination and compact prosecution would be promoted if a search were conducted simultaneously for all of the Groups. Also, the necessity of filing multiple patent applications in this case does not serve to promote the public interest because of the extra expense that is involved, in filing fees and examination costs, as well as the burden upon the public due to the necessity of searching through a multiplicity of patent files in order to find the complete range of subject matter claimed in several different patents that could otherwise be found in one

issued patent only.

Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications for the non-elected invention.

For all these reasons, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 be withdrawn, and that an action on the merits of all the claims be rendered.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walter STIEGLBAUER



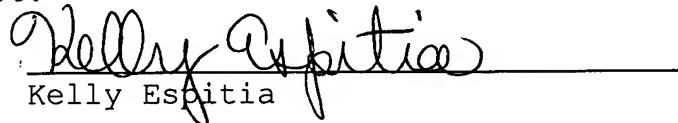
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Elizabeth C. Richter, Reg. No. 35,103  
Frederick J. Dorchak, Reg. No. 29,298  
William C. Collard, Reg. No. 38,411  
Attorneys for Applicants

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.  
1077 Northern Boulevard  
Roslyn, New York 11576  
(516) 365-9802

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Kelly Espitia